

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

BUREAU OF THE MINT

Washington September 26, 1899.

Mr. D. P. Barrows,
No. 1602 Avenue B. Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of September 23rd, I would say that when the original United States legal tender notes were issued it was thought necessary to provide that customs duties should be required to be paid in gold, because the government had outstanding obligations the principal and interest of which, it had agreed to pay in gold. It was felt to be necessary to provide that at least a portion of the government's income should be in gold to enable it to discharge these obligations. The same argument was given against the receipt of national bank notes. Since the resumption of specie payments, however, with the legal tender notes and bank notes at all times equal in value to gold, the treasury has, in the exercise of its discretion, accepted both these forms of paper money for customs. Indeed, now that the U.S. notes are paid on presentation in gold, it would be useless to refuse to receive these notes for duties, because the holder could draw gold out at one window of the Sub-treasury office and immediately pay it back at another window.

Very truly yours,

Geo E. Roberts
Director of the Mint.

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[Signature] George E. Roberts
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